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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 14, 2001.

Dated: 14 MAY 01

Juan C. Villar